

A proclamation sett furth by the kinges maiesty, with the aduise of his most honorable priuey counsaill, declaring his graces determination, concerning the amendement of his highnes coyne, and also to admonish such of his subiectes, as be engrossers of fermes, victualles and other thinges, &c. and the inhauncers of al prices of the same, and for the amendement of their greedy and insatiabable doinges, &c. the .xj. day of May in the .v. yere of his moste prosperous reigne.



He kinges most excellent Maiestie, hauing of late season vnderstanding and knowledge, by diuerse and sundry consultations of the Lordes, and others of his priuey counsaill, how necessary and beneficiall, it should be for the wealth of his hole Realme, to haue his Coyne reduced to finenes, whiche hath bene made base from the beginning of the latter Warres in the time of his maiesties father, of most famous memory, and so remained by continuance of the like: hath had a greate, godly, and earnest desire, daily increasling in his maiesties most noble and godly harte, to beginne and attempt some towardenes, to so greate a benefite, and so to procede and achieue, with asmuche his owne maiesties losse therein as possible were fitte for hym to susteine. Wherefore, of a moste godly minde towarde his people, and a most feruent desire, to begin to do this notable greate benefite, for the whiche all good subiectes, hath of late, as it were with groninges longed, his Maiesty, with the aduise of his counsaill, who, with greate reasons, were perswaded to aduise his maiestie therto, caused his determination, to be published by a proclamation bearing date, the last Day of Aprill last, that from the last daie of August nexte following, the Shilling coyned and set furth by his maiesty, shoulde be curraunt for .ix. d. sterl. and no moze, and the grote for .iii. d. as further appereth by the same proclamation, without the whiche meanes, his maiesty coulde neuer possible attempt or come nere to set furthe and make the Coyne of fine siluer accordyng to his good desire, and as in dede ordinarily, his maiesty from the beginning of the consultation hath ment, and doth certainly meane. Yet neuerthelesse, suche is the malice and naughty nature of a certain kinde of people, that liue onely for themselves, & as it semeth by their doinges, neither respect God, King, the suertye of his maiesties Croune, nor any other Christian creature, but goyng about to eate and deuoure, as well the state of Nobilitie, as the lower sorte, beyng Seruing men, Artificers, Handicraftes, pooze Husbondemen, laborers and such like, and further maliciously ouerwharting and hindering all good purposes of the kinges maiestie, and his counsaill, traouailing to do to the common wealth good, and especially, when they perceauie any thing purposed, to amend the vnreasonable prices of victuall, and suche necessary thinges for mens sustenance, that as it is come to his Maiesties knowledge, and his counsaill, by the information of diuerse credible persons from sundry partes of this his Realme, since the foresaide proclamation was published, whiche was the very ordinary and necessary beginning of a manifest amendement of the coine, the prices of victualles, Wares & such like thinges, be purposely inhaunced beyond all expectation, and the gracious meaning of the kinges Maiestie, and his counsaill betwixtly peruerted, and sinisterly abused, the same most manifestly comming of the deuylishe malice, and sight of the foresaide kinde of naughty people, iniurious to the whole common wealth: which thinges considered, his Maiesty hauing the Swearde not in vaine committed to him of God, and with the same as a minister of the almighty, the very indignacion and plagues from heauen to fall where his Swearde shall strike, cannot, ne may not, without thoffence of God, se and suffer suche lewde persones as wilfully be the causers hereof remaine unpunished to their owne dampnations, and the distruction of others. Wherefore his Maiesty, meaning not in ire, or passion, to execute his indignacion, but iustly and with good grounde, hath the firste by the aduise of his counsaill, thought mete to admonishe all kinde of people in their degrees,

and to let them clerely vnderstand his pleasure and determination in this behalfe, so as whosoever shal offend, thesame shal not faile of sharpe and due punishment for these offences.

And therefore first of all, to all suche, as either wilfully or ignorantly, hath mistaken his Maiesties good meaning vpon the former proclamatiō, for the abating of money, his Maiestie declareth his good and gracious meaning, and determinate purpose, by the aduise of his counsaill, to be thereby to amend his coine, & to reduce it to finenes of siluer, although thesame shalbe most of al, without al comparision to his maiesties losse and detrimēt, and yet to the benefite of his subiectes & the honoz of the realme. And next to suche fermours, Graiers, and Shepe Masters, which by vntreasonable and fraudulent ingrossing of fermes, Graine, Victuall, aswell Butter and Chese, as other grosser thinges, as Woolle and suche like, Wood, Cole, and other thinges pertaining to the dayly sustenance of man, and enhaunsing the prices of thesame, and by manifest decayng of tounes and tillage, excessive increasing of shepe, contrary to diuers good lawes and statutes of this realme prouided for these caces, not vnknownen to the offenders therein. Whiche kinde of persones in dede his maiesty and his counsaill iudgeth to be the principall occasions of these almost vncausable deatthes. His maiestie pronounceth & threatneth, that if they furthewith cease not their greedy, vnlauffull, and vnnaturall practises, colozed with craftes and subtelties to auoyde and deceaue the meaning of the lawes and all honesty, they shal suffre with his extreme indignation the Justice of his lawes to the vttermost, to the terroz of al suche as being thus often gently admonished haue neuer amended.

Thus muche doth his maieste in this behalf, partely of clemency of nature, admonish, that would haue no cause to exercise extremitie: partely (if the naughtines of his subiecte, shal geue him cause) yet by this admonitiō the punishmēt shalbe moze iust and necessary. And although his maiesty considereth howe conueniēt it is for his office, hauing indifferent charge and care ouer all maner his subiectes, not onely to repprehend the faultes of Offenders, but also to punish them seuerely, yet because of late yeres, the lower sorte of people, lacking in dede in that parte, all maner of reason, and beyng like to those sicke madmen that either will haue no phisicke, or els will be their owne phisitions, haue presumpteously taken vpon them the office of his maiesty, both in repprehending of their superiours, and attempting redress of thinges after their own phantasies, with force, and contrary to the due obedience of good Subiectes towards god and man. Therefore also his maiestie, likewise pronounceth and declareth vnto them, and euery of them, that if they shal exceede their duties either in repprehending or attempting any maner of remedie or redresse, otherwise then shal stand with the lawes and order of the realme: His Maiesty wil not faile but minister vnto them sharp terroz of his swearde and Lawes, whiche, as they be well prouided of late for suche offenders, so shal they not lacke diligent and due execution.

God saue the King

RICHARDVS GRAYTON
typographus Regius
excudebat,

Mense Maij.

A.M.D.LI.

Cum priuilegio ad imprimendum solum.